

PATENT

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

We, David A. Hazlebeck, a citizen of the United States of America, having a residence and post office address of 486 Live Oak Drive, El Cajon, California 92020; Michael H. Spritzer, a citizen of the United States of America, having a residence and post office address of 4090-6 Porte de Palmas, San Diego, California 92122; Kevin W. Downey, a citizen of the United States of America, having a residence and post office address of 11041 South Morning Creek Drive, San Diego, California 92128; Martin R. Martinez, a citizen of the United States of America, having a residence and post office address of 759 Lupine Drive, San Marcos, California 92069; Toshisuke Isoya, a citizen of Japan, having a residence and post office address of 5-12-11, Tsurumaki-Minami, Hatano-shi, Kanagawa, Japan; Kunitoshi Suzuki, a citizen of Japan, having a residence and post office address of 2-1-54, Jukkenzaka, Chigasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan; and Satoshi Nakayama, a citizen of Japan, having a residence and post office address of 19-10-302, Akabane-Higashi, Kita-ku, Tokyo, Japan, verily believe we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter of the invention or discovery entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SOLIDS TRANSPORT IN HYDROTHERMAL PROCESSES, for which a patent is sought and which is described and claimed in the specification which was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office as Serial No. 09/982,986 on October 18, 2001; that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims; and that we acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Section 1.56(a) of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

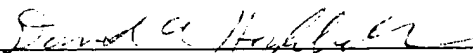
We declare further that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

We hereby appoint as our attorneys NEIL K. NYDEGGER, Registration No. 30,202, MATTHEW K. HILLMAN, Registration No. 45,892 and NICOLE CHYOKO IIDA, Registration No. 48,906, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. All correspondence and telephonic communications should be directed to:

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Wherefore, we pray that a letters patent be granted to us for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

Signed at San Diego, California this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2002.

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(Signatures Continued on Page 3)

Signed at San Diego, California, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2002.

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